armies penetrated Annam. On the open field they were usually victorious, but the tropical climate proved their undoing. Twice, shattered by disease, they were forced to retire, and the third time, enfeebled by the same enemy, they were overwhelmed by the Annamites with the loss of their fleet. Khubilai wished to continue the attack but had to be content with threats on his part and—to him—unsatisfactory present-bearing embassies from Annam.

Mongol experience in Burma was less disastrous but led to no more permanent conquest. Beginning with 1277 and ending in 1301, five separate expeditions sought to establish the rule of the Grand Khan. The invading armies were usually fairly successful in battle, three of them penetrating the valley of the Irrawaddy, at least two of them to the,south of the present Mandalay, but they failed to establish any lasting foothold.

A Mongol-Chinese armada was sent to Java to punish a prince in the eastern part of the island who had treated with contumely an envoy sent by Khubilai to demand the recognition of Mongol suzerainty. With the aid of a local magnate, the force achieved initial successes, but after a few months the great distance from its base, heavy losses of life, and fresh difficulties from enemies, led the army to debark.

Tribute was received from a state in the present Siam, but no troops seem to have been ordered there.

An attempt to subdue the Liu Ch'iu (Ryu Kyu) Islands ended in failure, presumably because of the untimely death of the Chinese pilot of the invading fleet.

From the vantage of the centuries, it is evident, as has been said, that the miscarriage of these attempts to extend the Mongol possessions across the seas and to the south were an indication

that the tide had reached its flood and was about to recede. Other factors than lack of vigor, however, entered into the failures of Khubilai's forces. The Mongols had been eminent as strategists on the land, but it is not strange that, coming from the desert and the steppes, they should not be at home on the sea. In the South, moreover, the tropical climate proved uncongenial and was a handicap which they could not fully overcome.

It must not be forgotten, also, that Khubilai greatly widened the Mongol borders. He completed the conquest of the Sung (no